trees in the forest land which are useful for fruit production as well as the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Fruit bearing trees can be planted on forest land if the species to be planted are indigenous and such plantation activity is part of an overall afforestation programme for the forest area in question. The species for plantations are selected by the State/UT Governments which are implementing various afforestation schemes, taking into account the climatic and soil factors.

[English]

National Dairy Research Institute

3111. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Southern Regional Station of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Bangalore into the full fledged Institute to cater to the Research and Development needs of the industry;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has agreed to provide funds and other infrastructural facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to develop the Southern Regional Station Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore into a full fledged Institute.

The SRS is already looking after the needs of dairy industry for that region.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on Collection of Stone and Sand

3112. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed restriction on the collection of stone and total ban on the collection of sand between 200 to 500 metres from the sea coast particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation to this effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). As per the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification issued by the Central Government on 19.2.1991 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, mining of sands, rocks and other substrata materials, except those rare minerals not available outside the CRZ areas is a prohibited activity.

(c) to (e). The Government have received a representation from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for relaxation to this effect, but in accordance with the provisions of the Notification, no relaxation for prohibited activities is permissible.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3113. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to establish at least one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district in the country;

(b) if so, the number of districts remaining without the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the country at present, State-wise;

(c) the time limit fixed by the Government to achieve the desired target;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate funds for the setting up of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts; and

(e) if so, the estimated fund required for setting up of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Out of 503 rural districts, 251 districts of the country are yet to be covered with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra. State-wise list is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d). It will depend on the availability of additional funds for which the Planning Commission has been approached.

(e) An estimated additional funds of Rs. 465 crores will be required for setting up new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts.